JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Messengers reel in NOTBS, drop Disney

**SINCE 1877** NE 30, 2005 VOL. 129 No. 26

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NASHVILLE (Editor's Network, BP, and local reports) - Messengers from member churches of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) met in Nashville on June 21-22, bringing lone holdout New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) into the fold of sole membership along with the other SBC entities to ensure the entities cannot break away for the convention in the future.

The messengers, which unofficially totaled 11,641 from 4,976 of the convention's 45,000 member churches, also instructed SBC President Bobby Welch to send a letter to Disney Corporation informing the company that the world's largest Protestant denomination planned to bring its boycott of the company to an end.

Messengers approved a charter change for NOBTS, making the convention the sole member of the seminary's corporation and thereby preventing the seminary from ever leaving the convention without the express permission of messengers to a future SBC annual meeting.

They ratified the measure by a vote of 5,627 to 1,528, after allowing seminary President Chuck Kelley to explain the school's reservations about sole membership. Those reservations included the special intricacies of Louisiana law, concerns over the centralization of power in the SBC, and the meaning of such centralization of power to Baptist polity.

All other SBC entities had previously adopted the sole membership proposal, with the exception of the Executive Committee in Nashville which has pledged to do so after all the other SBC entities adopted sole membership.

The resolution approved by messengers that deals with Disney declares the SBC's boycott "has communicated effectively

our displeasure concerning products and policies that violate moral righteousness and traditional family values." Urging Disney to provide "only those products that affirm traditional family values," the resolution pledges "to continue to monitor the products and policies of The Disney Co."

Pastor Wiley Drake of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Vista, Ca., author of the original boycott resolution in 1997, affirmed the proposal. Messengers overwhelmingly voted to end the boycott, concluding with a call for Southern Baptists "to practice continued discernment regarding all entertainment products from all sources."

Bobby Welch was elected to a second term as SBC president, and was joined by Jerry Sutton as first vice-president and Roy Fish as second vice-president.

Welch has been pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Fl., since 1974 and is the co-creator of the FAITH/Sunday School Evangelism Strategy widely used in Southern Baptist churches. He is a former president of the Florida Baptist Convention and a former SBC vice president.

Sutton, pastor of Two Church

Nashville, was elected in a runoff with Dan Spencer, pastor of First Church in Thomasville, Ga. The initial vote included a third nominee, Mike Boyd, senior pastor of Knoxville's Wallace Memorial Church. Fish, longtime evangelism professor at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, was elected over Wiley Drake.

Unopposed for re-election were recording secretary and registration secretary, respectively, John L. Yeats, editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, and James H. (Jim) Wells, director of missions for Tri-County Association in Ozark, Mo. Yeats was first elected to his post in 1997; Wells in 2002.

Last year was a banner year for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta, said board President Robert E. (Bob) Reccord, as more than one million Southern Baptists were equipped in evangelism through NAMB ministries. More churches were started in 2004 than any other year in SBC history. Of these 1,784 new congregations, 59% were African-American or ethnic.

CONFIRMING CREDENTIALS — George Berger (standing, right), missions director for Lebanon Association in Hattiesburg, and Mike Grenn (seated), pastor of North Columbia Church, Columbia, verify the paperwork of a messenger attempting to register for the 2005 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Nashville. Both Mississippi Baptists served on the SBC Credentials Committee, which assists messengers whose credentials could not be accepted for some reason during the registration process. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



GOES RIGHT HERE — Chip Pratt (right), son of Eric Pratt, vice president of Christian development at Mississippi College in Clinton, works a puzzle with LifeWay Christian Resources representative Becky Loyd on the floor of the exhibit hall at the 2005 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Nashville. (Photo courtesy of The Alabama Baptist/Grace Thornton)

NAMB also assisted in mobilizing 116,000 Southern Baptists who took part in short-term/mission projects. Of these, more than 24,000 were youth who ministered in inner-city areas through World Changers, while another 15,000 went into disaster relief areas and prepared more than 3.5 million hot meals.

Reaching others for eternity is also the drive behind two ministries focused on electronic and print media, which NAMB launched during the SBC meeting. These include cost-efficient broadband services, print materials, and a media campaign titled, Who Cares?, which will feature commercials focused on sharing Christ in today's culture.

Mississippi native Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., was joined by Southern Baptist workers in South Asia and Africa in reporting that God is moving through the world like a mighty wave, pouring out His grace in astounding and marvelous ways.

(Please turn to Messengers on page four)



## EDITOR'S *Notebook*



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## Praise, worship, and just pure joy

the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has come and gone yet again, this year for the 148th time. Despite the inflammatory rhetoric and insulting images by which we are portrayed in much of the secular American news and entertainment media, anyone who has spent any time around

> Southern Baptists is aware of our nearlimitless capacity for praise, worship, and just pure joy.

We are grateful to be children of the King, and it shows every summer at this special gathering of like-minded believers from around world. Inside the Gaylord Entertainment Center in down-Nashville, where the SBC annual meeting was held on June 21-22, it wasn't at all unusual to over-

hear five different languages during a brief walk around the cavernous facility. They seemed to fit in just fine.

The same goes for skin color. Red, yellow, black, or white, we are indeed precious in His sight — and welcome in the SBC of today. It is heartening to see so many ethnic groups and nationalities sharing in the Good News that Jesus seeks to save all of us regardless of our genetic cir-cumstances of birth. We may have a checkered past in this regard, but we're making up for it in our present and our future never looked brighter.

One of the most interesting business items to come before messengers this year was the matter of the Disney boycott. Originally approved by mes-sengers to the 1997 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, earnest people have always had honest differences about whether the boycott was effective as a force for cultural change.

The boycott and its subsequent national publicity undoubtedly generated much uneasiness in the Disney directors' boardroom. The media giant at times seemed to be getting the message, but neverthe-less remained adamant about the course of company policy throughout the boycott. Some observers would likely declare this modern-day Clash of the Titans to have been a draw.

Wiley Drake, the pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Vista, Ca., who offered the original resolution that led to the boycott, said, "They have made some changes. It's time to drop that boycott." That doesn't

sound at all like a victory speech. On the other hand, Disney CEO Michael Eisner, who SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty President Richard Land once called "the princeling of darkness," has been forced into retirement by the Disney board after a long, stormy tenure in the top spot during which he openly defied the concerns of religious conservatives. Disney has also been instrumental of late in bringing C.S. Lewis' masterpiece, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, to the big screen this December.

Combined with a number of smaller changes at the compa-



ONE WAY, ALWAYS — A mass choir leads thousands in singing One Way, the theme song for the 2005 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville on June 21-22, during a pre-convention evening celebration June 18 at Nashvilles Gaylord Entertainment Center. The rally was held to celebrate Crossover, an annual evangelistic effort held the weekend prior to the SBC annual meeting throughout the host city's metropolitan area. (BP photo by Matt Miller)

ny, the messengers to the 2005 annual meeting obviously believed it was time to grant Disney a second chance.

Another interesting dimension to the meeting this year was the watered-down version of the proposed resolution from last year calling on Southern Baptist parents to pull their chil-dren from the "godless" public school system. After being slam dunked by messengers last year, supporter Bob Shortt, a Texas attorney, returned with both his failed resolution from last year and a new resolution "to hold accountable schools, institutions and industries for their moral influence on our children.'

The newly-proposed resolution also urged parents and churches "to investigate diligently the curricula, textbooks and programs in our community schools and to demand discontinuation of offensive material and programs." The new resolution seemed to resonate with the 2005 messengers, who passed it.

Space does not permit detailed descriptions of the many other resolutions, motions, and events that occurred at the annual meeting. More information can be found by logging on to www.sbcbaptistpress.org, or www.abpnews.com.

Every Southern Baptist should have at least a rudimentary understanding of how we govern ourselves, and there's no better place to start that education than at the SBC annual meeting next year in Greenboro, N.C., on June 13-14.

Plan on attending; you surely won't regret it.

a Mockingbird, there is a L line that I will always cherish. She wrote, "there are some men in this world who were born to do our unpleasant jobs for us." This line opened my eyes to the fact that I had a civic responsibility, a duty, a purpose. As Christians, the

Bible should be our guide for

In Harper Lee's novel, To Kill

Christian civic responsibility. While preparing to lead a group studying Henry Black-aby's Experiencing God, I compiled an inventory of my spiritual markers. Looking back over my life, I noticed the times I failed God, my family, and my community were the times I failed to follow the instructions of God. Christians have dual citizenship as United States citizens

and as citizens in Heaven. Last year, I turned forty which caused me to reflect upon my life. I recognized how fortunate I was to have a loving, merciful God who forgives my sins and through the Blood of Jesus reconciled me to Him. Despite the many times I have failed Him and others (and there have been many), He has forgiven me. The Bible instructs

### **GUEST OPINION:**



Our dual citizenship

By Randy Pierce, Pastor Unity Church Leakesville

us to be salt and light in this world; therefore, Christians should be involved in civic activities. As Christians, we need to recognize society's need for our involvement.

Lee's words above, I think of Jesus who was born to die for our sins. It is indeed a small price to pay as Christians to be active Christian citizens. I cannot imagine a Mississippi without individuals like Reverend Bill Barton, the founder of the Home of Grace, like Nell Gray who is such a prayer warrior and encourager, and like many other Christians who take leadership roles in events like the American Cancer Society's Relays for Life.

One should never get the impression that you must be an elected official to be involved in Christian civic duty. As dual citizens, Christians also have heavenly As I reflect upon Harper dutics. But for Christian citizens who offered both guidance and love, my family may have become a casualty of the times. I often pray and thank God for placing Christians in my path and for His forgiveness for the many times where I have failed Him so miserably.

Gregory Peck played Atticus Finch in the movie version of Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird. Atticus embodied a person willing to perform his Christian duty. In this novel, Atticus was defending Tom

Robinson for a crime he did not commit. After resting his case, Atticus spoke with passion and conviction to the jury. As he concludes his closing argument, Atticus pleads to the jury, "In the name of God, do your duty." God has indeed given us a duty. A part of that is to be active Christian citizens involved in our communities and sharing the love of Christ in so doing.

July 3 is Citizenship and Religious Liberty Sunday. Each year, we celebrate our independence as a country on July 4. As Christians, we celebrate this independence daily. Everyone that passes your way needs at least a smile, some a helping hand, some a little tough love, and still others just need a friend. Recognize your dual citizenship and get busy. In other words, do your duty! In the name of God, do your duty!

Pierce is a Chancery Court Judge for the 16th Chancery Court District (Jackson, George, Greene counties); former member of the Mississippi House of Represent-atives and chairman of education committee; and bivocational pastor of Unity Church in Leakesville.

## Welch fires up SBC for baptism campaign

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — "I want 'em to hear us in hell," Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Bobby Welch said in the concluding session of the SBC's June 21-22 annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

The crowd was much larger than most recent Wednesday nights at SBC annual meetings, some observers said, and was much more animated, as they stood, applauded and cheered during Welch's "Everyone Can' Kingdom Challenge" launch. "It's gotta happen now. No more waiting!" Welch exclaim-

ed in his charge to Southern Baptists to witness to, win to Christ and baptize one million souls in the upcoming church year, Oct. 1, 2005-Sept. 30, 2006.

Southern Baptists got plenty of training toward meeting that goal in Crossover Nashville, the evangelistic thrust occurring the weekend before every

SBC annual meeting.
According to sources at the SBC's LifeWay Christian Resources, the most current records for Crossover Nashville show that, in the Nashville-area door-to-door evangelism efforts alone, 7,374 Southern Baptists knocked on 46,391 doors, completed 18,128 visits, shared the Gospel 4,985 times, and led 584 non-Christians to pray to commit their lives to Christ.

Adding block parties, cultural festivals, and other Crossover efforts, more than 2,500 professions of faith were recorded.

Highlighting the Everyone Can launch were songs from the Christian music group Casting Crowns; a sermon by James T. Draper Jr., president of LifeWay Christian Resources; and country music artist Ricky Skaggs, who blew a ram's horn, or shofar, sounding the command to charge.

Draper, preaching from 1 Samuel 10, read about the



EVERYONE CAN CELEBRATION — As fireworks ignite by center stage and balloons drift down from above, Bobby Welch, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, presents the "Everyone Can' Kingdom Challenge" launch to close the SBC annual meeting June 22 in the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

anointing of Saul as king over God's children and Samuel's desire to present Saul at a large gathering of the Hebrews, but Saul had hidden himself among the baggage, "or the 'stuff," Draper said.

"Is it possible for Southern Baptists, with all of the blessings of God and all of the things that God has done for us — and in us and through us — that we could still, with all of that, be hiding among the stuff?" Draper asked.

"Saul hides from his own destiny. There's hardly a more pathetic picture in all of the Old Testament," said Draper, urg-ing Southern Baptists to no longer "hide among the stuff" of church life and to get busy

about the task of winning people to faith in Jesus Christ.

Saying he'd checked SBC baptismal records for the last 55 years, Draper said what he found was "scary."

"The trend line shows an

annual increase of only 45 people per year, barely one person per 1,000 churches per year," he said. Yet the SBC claims growth in the same time period from seven million to 16.2 million.

"Could it be that we are hiding among the 'stuff?"" he asked again. "In spite of the struggle for 25 years to recover biblical faithfulness, we are still witnessing stagnation in evangelism. Our passion for souls has cooled. It's slipped away from us."

Draper concluded, citing Southern Baptists' blessings from God, and he encouraged the audience to follow Jesus Christ and His story to its glorious conclusion.

"Take the gloves off, we're headed out, it's now," Welch said, immediately on the heels of Draper's sermon. "We're going to sound the charge in

this room. You don't win unless you go to war. We're going to attack the gates of hell for the sake of souls. We're going to sound in this room right now the charge to go on the assault, and we're also going to sound the celebration of the sure victory that's in Jesus Christ.'

With the three-foot-long horn, Skaggs sounded the charge. Applause and cheers filled the room. "Oh, yeah, I've got a feeling that in hell right now they're huntin' cover," Welch said.

Skaggs blew the horn again, and Welch said, "I want 'em to hear you in hell, and I want 'em to hear you in heaven. I want those who are on their way to hell to know we're coming. I want those in heaven to tune up, because there's gonna be some rejoicing in the next year because some folks will be off the road to hell and on their way to heaven," Welch said, the crowd's standing ovation continuing.

For more information on the Everyone Can effort, log on to www.everyonecan.net.



SECOND FRONT PAGE



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Edible exhibit

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — While it is common for exhibitors at each year's Southern Baptist Convention to construct displays, never before has a large portion of such a display been edible. The exhibit built by Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth was constructed mostly of 25 pound bags of rice — 300 of them. Southwestern erected a 10'x 20' display booth resembling a U.S. Army special operations base camp. The booth was built with materials such as camouflage netting, rough-cut lumber poles, ammo cans and sandbags. The theme for the booth demonstrated that Southwestern Seminary is training men and women to take the Gospel to places in the world where it has never been heard before, or "behind the lines." Greg Tomlin and Brent Thompson, Southwestern's director and associate director of public relations, respectively, led a team that designed the booth in-house. The team estimated that the booth would require about 300 sandbags for it to have an authentic look. "As we were drawing up plans for the booth it occurred to us that, instead of putting sand in the sandbags, we would fill the bags with rice. Then, after the SBC annual meeting, we could donate the rice to the Nashville Rescue Mission," Tomlin said. The seminary purchased all the rice it needed — 7,500 pounds — through Riceland Foods of Stuttgart, Ark. Then it purchased 300 new, but empty, sandbags from a bag manufacturer in California that supplies the U.S. Army. When the SBC annual meeting drew to a close June 22, Tomlin and his team divided the rice from the walls of the display booth to be distributed to the Nashville Rescue Mission, the Union Rescue Mission in Little Rock, Ark., and the Union Gospel Mission in Fort Worth.

### Looking back

Trucker Jerry Matthews, of San Diego, Calif., accepts Jesus Christ as Savior after a call to Jackson's Baptist Book Store. Manager Eddy Perry shared the "Roman Road" with Matthew during an arranged meeting.

20 years ago

The 13th annual Campers on Mission national rally is held in Kosciusko, featuring a huge Mississippi-raised catfish supper for the 400 participants from 14 states who combine their love of camping with Christ's Great Commission.

50 years ago

J. Edgar Hoover says every motive that will bring new members to Sunday School, "no matter what their degree of conviction," should be exploited to the utmost. The FBI chief praised the nation's Sunday School teachers who "are doing a truly magnificent job."

Jesus Christ

Requests the

Honor of

Your

Presence
in Heaven!

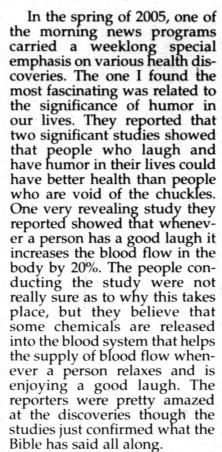
YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

- **1.** Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned*.)
- **2.** I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
- **3.** I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



The wise and practical writer of Proverbs told us thousands of years ago, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." It is absolutely true. Folks who live with laughter in their lives may not live longer than folks who don't laugh, but they sure enjoy it better. Life lived on the lighter side is a good thing. It is not that laughing folks don't take life seriously, and it is not that they do not have as many



and hurdons as Now

bumps, bruises, and burdens as everyone else, but they do seem to have a capacity and capability for turning life's quandaries and quagmires into chuckles and smiles.

I remember visiting with a friend in the hospital as he was going through a difficult time and recovering from serious, extensive surgery. As I visited with him, with a big smile on his face he said, "Preacher, even if I was feeling good, I would feel bad having to wear this silly gown they gave me." We had a gentle laugh together about the indecencies of being in the hospital.

My dear friend, Jimmy Johnson, up in Verona has spent most of his life enjoying good health and hard work. A few years ago he was going through a whole series of physical problems and health challenges. At one point his wife said to him, "When you started coming apart you came loose at all four corners, didn't you?" As he battled back toward good health, it was a light moment that none of us has forgotten.

Now please understand that I am not just talking about being silly about the serious things in life, but there is something to making the best of the broken pieces in life. There is a blessing associated with the triumphant spirit, the buoyant attitude, and the encouraging faith that clings to the strength of God knowing that He is with us and even when things are at their worst they can and will be better. It may not look like things will improve, but they can. Sometimes all of us have felt like the sweet lady who was coming out of church one Sunday just after her pastor had resigned. He was going to another church and she came out of the sanctuary weeping, wailing, and very upset. The pastor took her by the hand and tried to comfort her. He said, "Look, if God is leading me somewhere else He has someone much better pre-pared for this church." She wailed even louder and said, "That is what they told us last time and it wasn't true."

Here is one final thought about laughter. Have you ever noticed how you don't laugh as much and you certainly don't laugh as energetically when you are by yourself? I guess the fact is that if folks noticed you just off by yourself laughing and carrying on they would think something was wrong with you. You may see something or read something that is funny and it may even invoke a slight smile and an internal grin. The same thought or site experienced with a group of friends or in the company of a number of people may bring on a first class belly laugh. The point is that the delights of our lives that come out in laughter become healthful humor to us and the folks around us. It is infectious, contagious, uplifting, and enjoyable when we experience a happy heart.

Only God can provide true peace and ultimate happiness. Today you can begin right where you are to find a confidence, a trust, and a hopeful moment in the Lord that can make a difference in the shape of your mouth and the tone of your temperament. Let God cleanse you, fill you, bless you, and then put on a happy face and go out and contaminate your world with despair-

defeating laughter.

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## Messengers (continued from page one)

"In an instant, 250,000 lives were swept into eternity without Christ," Rankin said, recalling the tsunami that devastated eight Asian countries on Dec. 26. "This tragedy reminds us of the urgency of the task of getting the gospel to all people."

Rankin shared with Southern Baptists about another wave that is sweeping the world today that is far more powerful than that tsunami in Asia. This wave, he said, is "the tsunami of God's spirit, that is moving in the power of the gospel to break down barriers, open doors and sweep souls into the Kingdom of God."

A year ago, Rankin said, the board rejoiced to report for the first time more than a half million baptisms. In 2004, IMB missionaries saw an increase of almost 20%, as more than 607,000 new believers were "swept into kingdom," he noted.

"All together 21,000 new churches were started last year. That's 400 every week," Rankin reported. "This church planting movement will obviously continue as missionaries last year reported more than 50,000 additional outreach groups and mission points around the world," he said.

Rankin expressed gratitude to Southern Baptists for their faithful giving to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, which enabled the board to support more than 5,200 missionaries around the world.

This year, Southern Baptists gave more than \$133 million to the Lottie Moon offering,

enabling the mission board to send out 692 new missionaries. Mississippi Baptists gave \$7,976,658 to the Lottie Moon offering through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

More and more churches are joining in the task of winning the world to Jesus, responding to the Acts 1:8 challenge, Rankin said, noting that more than 30,000 short-term volunteers participated in overseas projects, multiplying Southern Baptists' witness in 184 countries. Southern Baptist work was initiated among 163 people groups, 131 of which were previously untouched by the gospel, he reported.

"The numbers are massive. The lostness is overwhelming," Rankin acknowledged. "Yet Jesus died for each one, and our Lord has committed to us the responsibility of taking the Gospel to all the peoples, even to the ends of the earth."

As the final gavel sounded on the SBC's 148th annual meeting and balloons were released from the top of the Gaylord Entertainment Center in downtown Nashville, messengers chanted, "Everyone Can and I'm It," in response to a challenge from SBC President Bobby Welch to witness, win, and baptize one million people in the coming year.

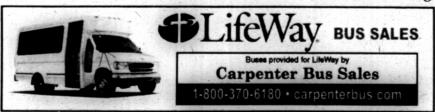
Building on momentum from his 50state bus tour this past year that included Mississippi in September, Welch exhorted messengers to leave the annual meeting united in one purpose.

"It's going to take everybody doing everything with all they can and it has to happen now," Welch told messengers. "We're going out there and we're going to attack the gates of hell for the sake of souls."

For extended coverage of the 2005 annual meeting, log on to www.sbcbaptistpress.org, and www.abpnews.com.



CONVENTION BAPTISM — Luke Charlton, age 7, is baptized by his pastor, Jim Cross of First Church in Donelson, Tn., at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting on June 21. A total of eight people were baptized during the annual meeting, under the authority of the individual local churches in which the new believers hold membership. (BP photo by Matt Miller)





## WMU 'passes on the passion' at meeting

**NASHVILLE** (Editor's Network) — Passion focused on God's mission, inner city ministry, the nation, the world, and serving God was on the minds of almost 1,400 Baptist women gathered at First Church in Nashville for the annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention on June 19-20, just prior to the opening of the 2005 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting next door at the Gaylord Entertainment Center arena.

With a theme, Pass on the Passion, WMU members heard testimonies and challenges from missionaries, agency heads, and WMU leaders during the two-day meeting.

Arkansas missionary Diana Lewis shared her passion for those who live in poverty and for matching people in the pews with mission opportunities in their own back yards. "God has given us in Arkansas a passion for those in our state who are lost without a Savior. God's desire is for all of them to know Him.

who reached an 89-year-old man through the Mississippi River Ministry. If she and 350 year-old man and 21 other peo-

ple would not be joining us in heaven." Rebekah Naylor, a missionary surgeon to India for more than 30 years, described the satisfaction she has ministering to people through Bangalore Baptist Hospital and in church planting. With almost 1.1 billion people, predominantly Hindu and Muslim, India is the world's second largest nation

and its largest democracy, Naylor said.
"God planted in my heart a passion for
the people of India," Naylor said. God answered prayer in marvelous ways, ultimately giving Naylor management responsibility for the hospital. In that role she fostered an environment where doctors and staff

prayed regularly and shared their faith freely.
"What is passion?" she asked. "That for which you are willing to sacrifice anything, even your life. ... Perhaps my greatest joy comes from being a partner

in church planting."

West Virginia missionary Debbie

Cannada explained how she and her husband, Norman, reach out to non-



r all of them to know Him."

NEW LEADER — Kaye Miller (at podium), new national them through Christ's love and Lewis told of a volunteer president of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary grace," Leathers said "They are president of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary grace," Leathers said "They are to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), speaks to messen not bad women. They are gers following the auxiliary organization's report June 21 at the women who made bad choices." SBC annual meeting in the Gaylord Entertainment Center in other volunteers had not gone Nashville. WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee looks on, after also help the women through that day. Lewis said, "that 89- introducing Miller to messengers. (BP photo by Van Payne) Christian Women's Job Corp, that day, Lewis said, "that 89- introducing Miller to messengers. (BP photo by Van Payne)

> Christians, welcoming sinners as they are. "We're fishers of men," she said. "You catch 'em, He'll clean 'em!"

Southern Baptist worker Carrie McDonnall, whose husband David was slain in a terrorist attack in Iraq just over a year ago that nearly killed her too, spoke of the many opportunities God has given her to glorify Him since the attack, which also took the lives of two other Southern Baptist humanitarian workers in addition to her husband.

Acknowledging that the past year has been a time of "recovering physically and learning to live with grief," McDonnall emphasized, "We are all called to glorify our Lord."

She said she would have been "just fine" remaining one of the many "nameless, faceless" people on the WMU's prayer list. But God had something else in mind, she said. "God will be exalted ...

and His glory will fill the whole earth."
Outgoing WMU President Janet
Hoffman of Farmersville, La., challenged

participants to have a passion for missions and to pass it on to the next generation. A passion for missions is always only one generation away from being extinguished or from explosive growth, she added.

Hoffman urged the women to fan the spark in their hearts for God's mission. "Stir it up daily in your intimate time with Christ, and pass it on."
In a session emphasizing

inner-city ministry, feaders of First Church of Nashville explained that they purpose-fully decided to stay in the inner city and aggressively minister to inner city needs.

Church members Linda Leathers and Becky Sumrall spoke of their work through church's Downtown Ministry Center. Leathers described their ministry to women released from prison, helping them avoid returning to the dysfunctional relationships and environments they knew before.

'Life can be different for

Leathers and other volunteers individual and group counseling, GED programs, and job placement.

More than 400 women have completed the jobs corps program, including homeless women and women from the "exotic dancing" industry, according to Sumrall, who serves as the church's coordinator.

Kaye Miller of Immanuel Church in Little Rock, Ark., was elected WMU president. Miller, president of the Arkansas WMU since 2002, is the daughter of Harland and Jo Willis, who were medical missionaries to Thailand. She is the first "missionary kid" to serve as WMU president.

Receiving the gavel from Hoffman, Miller said. "My missions heritage has pre-pared me for this day."

Miller's father closed the session by praying in the Thai language, which Kay Miller described as her family's "heart language."

In WMU's structure, presidents of the state organizations serve as vice-presidents on the national level. Kathy Hillman of Texas was re-elected as recording secretary.





#### MS Positions

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH in Hattiesburg, Miss. is currently seeking a Director of childhood ministry. Please send resumes with references to committee on childhood ministry, Calvary Baptist Church, 3139 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

FIRST CHURCH, GLUCKSTADT, Miss., seeking a worship leader for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights only. Blended worship, freeflowing format. Contact Author Comans at (601) 209-6000 or email authorcomans@aol.com.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, STARK-VILLE, is seeking applicants for an interim music director. If interested, please send a copy of your resume to chair of the search committee Barry Herring, 109 Trotter Lane, Starkville, MS 39759. Or email it to bwherr@bellsouth.net. For further information call him at (662) 323-7644.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH, Big Creek, Miss., is seeking a youth minister. This is a part-time position for someone who desires to lead and work with our youth in the way of the Lord as well as planning activities. If interested, please contact the church office at (662) 628-5949, or you may send your resume via email to johnnyhearn@hotmail.com.

#### CLASSIFIED ADS

INSURANCE for the self employed. Call MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970. We offer several low cost plans to street level, 2 bedroom/bath. Sleeps (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE, 3.9 cents choose from. E. F. Hutton Insurance. 6, family atmosphere, washer/dryer,

(205) 556-0368 or (205) 554-1524.

mation call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743.

GATLINBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2 bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$65/nite. Call for information at CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free (251) 666-2175, cell phone (251) 689- estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, 9982 or pdiw@worldnet.att.net.

www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldtt. saving seniors hundreds a year! Call (662) 746-6702.

\$195, 4 weeknights \$430. Efficiency to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705. unit (2 adults 2 kids). Good 5/26 - 8/6, MINISTER OF CHILDREN desired for birth through 5th grade, including a day NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, care program. Requirements include a INC., old Bibles rebound. Also, church seminary degree, strong organization and bulletins and hymnals. For more infor- ministry experience in both preschool and children's ministry. Send resumes to FBC Mt Olive, 3200 Mt. Olive Road, Mt. Olive Road, Mt. Olive, AL 35117, attn: children's minister search committee.

Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

Insurance toll free (877) 232-0686.

resumes for the position of association- Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. that consists of serving 25 churches in southeast Arkansas. Deadline for receiving resumes is August 31, 2005. Send resumes to search committee, Ashley Baptist Association, 1547 Hwy 52 W. Crossett, AR 71635, or email ashleybaptassoc@cei.net.

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., Serving DISABILITY MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT: BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO, Insurance, www.christurner-ins.com. interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly Call toll free today (877) 232-0686. furnished with all the extras. Please AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACA- service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT: New plan, call after 4:30 p.m. on weekdays,

dos.com. All size units available. HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. today and receive our free information PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Summer special, 2 night weekend Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations letter on the new prescription plans now Calvary Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, available to qualified seniors. E.F. Hutton Alabama is accepting resumes for preschool/children's minister. Please ASHLEY COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOC- send resumes to Calvary Baptist IATION of Crossett is accepting Church, 1121 Paul Bryant Drive,

> al missionary. This is a full-time position HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Bible Drill Teams, Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel



2. GAs Hand-stitched Blankets, First Church, Clinton

- 1. Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, congratulates its Bible Drill team. Shown are, back row from left: youth participants Marcus Culpepper, Roy Landrum, Mary Nell Phillips, Thomas Wagnon, and Matt Kendrick, youth minister. Front row from left: Hope Newsome, youth leader, Courtney Manning, Children's 3-year award, Carolyn Holifield, Children's Leader, Amberlee Mozingo, Children's 2-year award, and Kayla Smith, youth leader.
- 2. The sixth grade GAs of First Church, Clinton, hand-stitched eight receiving blankets for premature infants at the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital. The blankets along with handwritten notes were given to the Ronald McDonald House.
- 3. Jeremy S. Delony, was ordained into the ministry at Faith Church, Barton. He currently serves as associate pastor at Faith Church and is pursuing a Master of Divinity from Mid-America Seminary. Shown are David Shackelford, Jeremy S. Delony, and Lyle Seltman, pastor.

- 4. Lilly Orchard Church, Moss Point, ordained Archie C. Williams as deacon May 22. Shown are Bob Storie, Williams, Terry Long (pastor), and William Mills.
- 5. **Drew Church, Drew,** treated its Gleaners Sunday School class to lunch at the Crystal Grill, Greenwood. Shown are the participants.
- 6. **Drew Church, Drew,** sent their youth group to Hardy, Ak., for four days of worship, leadership and team building. Wes Prather was the worship pastor for the trip. Shown are the participants.
- 7. Long Creek Church, Meridian, is honoring pastor Jim Meadows for 40 years of service to the church July 10–17. July 10, 10 a.m. celebration; noon lunch; 5 p.m. evening celebration. July 11-15, 6 p.m. celebration with special music and guest pastor. July 16, 10 a.m. celebration, noon lunch, 2 p.m. special honorary ceremony, 5 p.m. dinner, and 6 p.m. celebration. July 17, 10 a.m. celebration. July 17, 10 a.m. celebration, noon lunch, 2 p.m. celebration, For information call (601) 644-3728.



3. Delony Ordination, Faith Church, Barton



4. Williams Ordination, Lily Orchard Church, Moss Point



5. Gleaners Sunday School, Drew Church, Drew



6. Youth Group, Drew Church, Drew

## PATEO, YAP OLJX NTF

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004

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BAPTISTS

MPATEO, YAP OLJX NTFP,
XLBYA YAP ETWO RTO,
TALY B HBEE XPSO L
QLFBSP BS YAP ELSO, STY
L QLFBSP TQ MWPLO,
STW L YABWXY QTW
HLYPW, MZY TQ APLWBSR
YAP HTWOX TQ YAP
ETWO.

LFTX PBRAY: PEPGPS

Clue: O = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Sixteen: Two.

## Just for the Record

- 8. First Church, Collinsville, recognizes its Bible Drill participants. Youth drillers are Meg Mowdy, Anna Beth Bates, Lindsey Summerlin, and Joel Mabry. Children's drillers, shown, are Turner Ennis, Ryan Mabry, David May, Rachel May, and Becca Mowdy. Youth drillers are Meg Mowdy, Anna Beth Bates, Lindsey Summerlin, and Joel Mabry.
- Glendale Church, Leland, honored its pastor, Richard J. "Dick" Hill May 15 with a surprise reception in honor of his receiving his Doctor of Theology degree. Nap Clark was the keynote speaker. Shown are Linda Hill and Hill.
- 10. Osyka Church, Osyka, recently held its annual recognition honoring missions groups. Shown, front, are Treston Ott, Payton Yawn, and Logan Yawn; middle, Nathan Hughes, Chris Aych, and Tyler Cutrer; back, Sawyer Ott and Will Lacuira.
- 11. Emmanuel Church, Grenada, congratulates their State Bible Drill participants. Shown are Austin McCool, Emma Steed (director), Jesse Meadows, Leeanna Meadows, Morgan Jackson, Leah Heimback, and Taylor Worshsam.



12. Teacher Appreciation Day, First Church, Famin

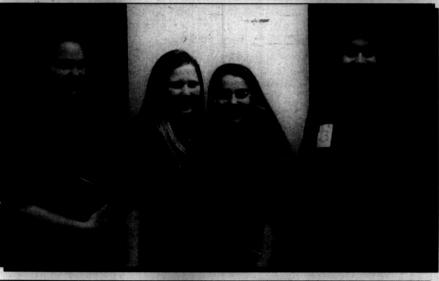
- 12. First Church, Fannin, held a Teacher's Appreciation Day June 5. The church recognized all its teachers, with special note of George Sheffield who has taught at the church for 25 years, and Martha Prince, who has taught at Fannin for 18 years, plus an additional 18 years at other churches. Shown are Sheffield and Prince.
- 13. Cliff Temple Church, Natchez, recognized its State Bible Drill participants. Shown are Corvan Day, Denise Collier, and Jeanette Tisdale, leader.
- 14. Harmony Church, Cruger, is having church services the last Sunday of each month, with the exception of July, when services will be held July 17. Everyone is invited.
- 15. Carriage Hills Church, Southaven, held its annual youth camp on the campus of Blue Mountain College. Seventy students and sponsors participated in the camp. Wayne Hill is minister of youth and James M. Lewis is pastor.
- 16. Buddy Liles will be in concert Sunday, July 24, 2005, at 7:00 P.M. at Concord Church, Pelahatchie. Liles was the bass singer for the famous Florida Boys Quartet for 25 years, and has appeared on many Gaither Homecoming Videos. A love offering will be received. Call (601) 546-2101 for more information.



13. Bible Drillers, Cliff Temple Church, Natchez



11. Bible Drillers, Emmanuel Church, Grenada





8. Bible Drillers, First Church, Collinsville



9. Richard and Linda Hill, Glendale Church, Leland



10. RAs, Osyka Church, Osyka

### College News

Blue Mountain College is conducting pre-registration for the 2005 fall semester for all incoming transfer students and freshmen during June and July. For more information, call the Office of Admissions at (800) 235-0136.



Magers

David
Magers,
Clinton, has
been chosen a
Distinguished
Professor of
the Year at
Mississippi
College.
Magers is
professor of
Chemistry and

Biochemistry, was chosen 2003 Chemist of the Year by the Mississippi Section of the American Chemical Society, and is designated MC Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer of the Year.

# NO BR issue on July 7

Due to postal regulations that limit The Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, the newspaper will not publish on July 7. The next issue will be dated July 14.

All news items submitted for publication in the July 14 issue must be received in the offices of the Baptist Record by the regular published deadline of July 7.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Navilla Church, McComb: Ramblin' Road Trip Car Show and SPL Contest, July 9, 9 a.m.-until; trophies awarded in five different classes of cars at 2:30 p.m.; stock, modified, and pro classes competition beginning at 2:30 p.m.; refreshments, children's games, and other entertainment available; car show entry fee, \$10 or \$15 at the gate; SPL entry fee, \$10; for further information or to pre-register, visit RNR Audio, 1139 Highway 98 East, McComb, or call (601) 250-0760.

Providence Church, Grenada, recognized their VBS participants. Providence's VBS was June 6–10 and included 3-year-olds through 6th grade. Shown are the participants.



**VBS, First Church, Collinsville** 



VBS, Providence Church, Grenada

Indian Springs Church, Laurel, recently held its VBS Ramblin' Road Trip. This year's mission project was the local Crisis Pregnancy Center,

with children and adults giving over 1000 diapers and 1500 wipes. Mission teachers were Danny and Linda Stringer; Michael West, pastor. First Church, Collinsville, recognizes their VBS participants, shown.

## www.mbcb.org



THE PRESIDENCY OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Samford University seeks a president to succeed Dr. Thomas E. Corts, who has announced his retirement at the end of the 2005–06 academic year. Samford provides an optimum context for leadership, having had only three presidents in the past 67 years. Samford values a close relationship with the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

#### ABOUT THE NEXT PRESIDENT

As a serious academic institution equally serious about its Christian commitment, Samford's next president must be an individual who is committed to the Christian faith, and to the University's mission, vision and foundational statements. In keeping with its tradition of strong, visionary leadership, Samford University seeks a president of the highest quality—a leader more than a manager; someone who understands and demonstrates the balance between faith and academics that is important to an institution such as Samford; someone who has the capacity to speak about personal faith but mostly lives it; someone who understands and values the task of the teacher-scholar; and someone who prizes learning. Ideally, the president will be a strong communicator in both written and oral forms; a team player and team builder; a good listener; and a committed fund-raiser with financial knowledge, and eagerness to procure, plan and prioritize resources.

#### ABOUT SAMFORD

One of the 100 oldest colleges/universities in America, Samford is among the 200 best-endowed universities. It is ranked by U.S. News & World Report among the five best universities in its classification/in the South and has been among the top 10 for the past 15 years. Samford enjoys a full enrollment of 4,400 students on its beautiful campus in the pleasant Birmingham suburban community of Homewood. Samford University is organized in eight academic units offering 23 degrees in more than 100 major fields of study. Samford is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Nominations and letters of interest may be sent in writing to the address below. All nominations and expressions of interest will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Dr. Sarah Latham, Secretary Presidential Search Committee Samford University P. O. Box 590145 Birmingham, AL 35229

For more information about Samford University and the presidential search, go to

www.samford.edu/presidentialsearch

Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employmen and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability, or national or ethnic origin. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

### **REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS**

Pleasant Hill Church, New Hebron: Revival, July 3–6; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.–Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Douglas, evangelist; Chad Douglas, music; Lloyd Wilson, pastor.

Union Church, Union Church: Revival, July 24–27; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Mon.–Wed., 7 p.m. Clarence Ernest Young, preaching; Helen Henderson, music; Malcolm Massey, pastor.

Pine Grove Church, Union: Sesquicentennial Anniversary, July 15–17, with former pastors and music leaders leading all services. For more information, phone (601) 656-1919.

Moak's Creek Church, Lincoln County: Revival, July 17–20. David Whitehead, evangelist; Micheal Alexander, pastor.

Spring Hill Church, Oakland: Revival, Homecoming, and 160th anniversary, July 10–13; Sun., 11 a.m. with Avery Jones, speaking; Sunday, 6 p.m. and Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Harvey Vance, Tillatoba, evangelist; Jim Keyser, Charleston, music; Eugene Walden, pastor.

Roxie Church, Roxie: Homecoming, July 10; worship at 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon praise service; Andy Graves, speaker; Buddy Lowery, music director.

Harmony Church, Louisville: Revival, July 10–15; Sun., 6:30 p.m.; Mon.–Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; James Young, Union, evangelist; Dave Tribble, Louisville, music; Jerry Lundy, pastor.

Big Springs Church, Brookhaven: 100th anniversary Homecoming, Aug. 14, 10:00 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and fellowship; Talmadge Smith, speaking.

Concord Church, Pelahatchie: Revival, July 17-20, Sun., 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. services at 7:30 p.m. Vic Bowman, evangelist; Larry Beasley, music; Billy McKay, pastor. Call (601) 546-2101 for information.

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale: Homecoming, July 10; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship service, 11:00 a.m. followed by a covered dish luncheon; Q.T. Curtis, former Interim Pastor, guest speaker.

**Learned Church, Learned: Revival, July 8-10.** Fri.-Sat., 7:00 p.m.; Sun., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Dale Holloway, guest speaker; Rocky Holston, pastor.

Poplar Springs Church, Hazlehurst: Homecoming and Revival, July 10-13; Sun., 11 a.m. with lunch following. Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Don Taylor, evangelist; Jewel Greer, music, Hubert Greer, pastor.



Security Gifts

Can you make your current investments work harder? You can. By giving securities, or stocks you already own, you can contribute to the work that God is doing and avoid taxes that come when you sell your stocks.

If you currently have stocks, give the Mississippi Baptist Foundation a call to learn more about the savings available to you when you give stocks now or designate them to the Foundation in your Will. By doing this, you are able to contribute money to the area of the Lord's work you decide and receive tax savings. And, you can even continue to keep the income from your assets as long as you live.

God's word is filled with instructions to be good stewards of what is given us and for us to excel in the grace of giving. With planning, you can become a good steward. Call us at the Mississippi Baptist Foundation to let us tell you how. And remember, it is not how much you give, but the heart by which it's given. Even small gifts, wisely invested, can make a large difference and be used in God's future plans.

Call us at (601) 292-3210.

THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

## Motions, resolutions considered at SBC

NASHVILLE (Editor's Network) — The Southern Baptist Convention will consider attempting to bring its women's auxiliary under its authority, thanks to a motion from the floor of the SBC annual meeting.

The convention received 24 motions during the opening day of its 2005 gathering, June 21 in Nashville. Of those motions, 13 were referred to convention agencies for study and possible action, and 11 were ruled out of order.

The request to invite Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to become an entity of the SBC was suggested by Leslie Stock, a messenger from Santa Fe Trail Church in Boonville, Mo.

2001, which led to formation of an SBC task force on ministry to homosexuals.

The motion was referred to the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, and the North American Mission Board in Atlanta.

 Request LifeWay Christian Resources to "make available once again through any and all willing local, hometown Christian book stores" its undated materials, including Vacation Bible School curricula. The motion was referred to LifeWay.

Make Guidestone Financial Resources
 formerly called the Annuity Board
 "the primary (healthcare) provider" for

 Strengthening the SBC bylaws' language to emphasize that messengers may immediately consider motions rather than refer them to SBC entities.

The 11 motions ruled out of order for various procedural reasons called for:

Guidestone Financial Resources to justify its rates for health insurance.

• Designating a tithe of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's budget to the Center for Reclaiming America. This motion was presented twice, with slight modifications.

 Studying how the SBC evangelizes and ministers to single adults.

• Encouraging Southern Baptist churches to refrain from removing "Southern Baptist" or "Baptist" from their church signs and bulletins.

• LifeWay to examine America's Heart and Soul, a movie produced by Disney, "and if it is biblically sound, to consider making it available to all Southern Baptists."

• All SBC entities to "respond with increasing openness" to a "Covenant with Southern Baptists," a document that would "provide Southern Baptists with the most complete, thorough and accountable business plan (and) business ethics."

 Publication of "line-item expenditures and receipts in all financial areas from all reporting entities," including salaries, bonuses, benefits and travel expenses for all convention employees, listed by name and title.

• Directing WMU to amend its charter to make the SBC its sole member.

• Directing LifeWay to make its materials, including vacation Bible school curricula, available to non-LifeWay stores. This motion was similar to a similar request that was referred to LifeWay, except this motion commanded, rather than requested, the action.

• The SBC president to send a letter to Disney, "telling them we will end our boycott of their corporation." This issue was later addressed as a resolution.

Southern Baptist Convention messengers voted June 22 "to hold accountable schools, institutions and industries for their moral influence on our children."

The resolution also urges parents and churches "to investigate diligently the curricula, textbooks and programs in our community schools and to demand discontinuation of offensive material and programs."

The action came one year after SBC messengers rejected a proposal urging Southern Baptists to remove their children from "godless" and "anti-Christian" public schools. Attorney Bruce Shortt of Texas was the co-

Attorney Bruce Shortt of Texas was the coauthor of proposed resolutions both last year and this year urging parents to withdraw their children from public schools. This year's proposal, co-written by Voddie Baucham Jr., called for removing children from schools that seek to influence students to accept homosexuality as a legitimate lifestyle.

While the measure presented by the SBC Resolutions Committee cited concerns about homosexuality, it stopped short of urging parents to withdraw their children

from public schools.

Shortt said he and Baucham support the committee's resolution as "an important first step in protecting our children." He urged Southern Baptists to "investigate diligently ... to determine if your school district is betraying your trust by teaching that homosexu-

ality is an acceptable lifestyle."

Committee members accepted the proposal as a friendly amendment and it was approved prior to adopting the revised resolution.

Messengers also approved resolutions to end an eight-year boycott of Disney and to express appreciation for American troops and President Bush.



BUSH ADDRESSES BAPTISTS – U.S. President George W. Bush speaks live via satellite from the White House June 21 to messengers on the opening day of the 2005 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in downtown Nashville. (BP photo by John Swain)

Woman's Missionary Union is an auxiliary to the SBC. WMU was founded independently of the convention in 1888. Its primary objectives are to educate Southern Baptists about missions, collect two offerings that provide major funding for the convention's international and domestic mission boards, and provide hands-on opportunities for missions.

As an auxiliary, WMU raises its own funding and elects its own board and officers. The 12 SBC-owned entities receive their funding from the convention and convention offerings, and their boards all are elected by the convention.

The motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee for study. WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee said operating procedure calls for referring requests for corporate changes to the WMU executive board, the organization's governing body.

board, the organization's governing body.
Six motions referred to various SBC agencies asked the convention to:

• Expand ministry to single parents and their children, made by Gerald Dominy of Springfield First Baptist Church in Rogersville, Ala. "Single parents make up 10 percent of the (U.S.) adult population, and near 50 percent of children live in a single-parent home at some time during their formative years," he noted.

The convention referred Dominy's motion to 11 SBC agencies, exempting the Executive Committee, which does not have ministry program assignments.

 Create a liaison to "coordinate and enhance" the convention's ministry to homosexuals. Bob Stith, pastor of Carroll Church in Southlake, Texas, made the motion. He presented a similar motion in employees of all SBC entities. The motion was referred to Guidestone.

Request the International Mission Board to report on its plans for "continuing support of theologically conservative Bible schools, theological colleges, theological seminaries, and other institutions" and to explain and reaffirm its intent to "continue to require theological training in a Baptist seminary for all full-time mission personnel." The motion was referred to the IMB.

• Study whether "a local church organized by the government as a 501(c)(3) state church is biblically correct." Such a designation makes churches and other nonprofit corporations tax-exempt, according to the Internal Revenue Code. The motion was referred to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Six additional motions referred to the Executive Committee asked for:

• Each state Baptist convention to provide "a good-faith estimate" of when it plans to divide its Cooperative Program budget receipts evenly between itself and the SBC.

Recognition of the So. Baptist Messianic
Fellowship "as a formal evangelistic mission entity to Jewish people worldwide."
A moratorium on holding the SBC annu-

al meeting on the week after Father's Day.
 Permission to submit proposed resolutions up to the beginning of the afternoon session on the first day of the convention's annual meeting. Current bylaws stipulate resolutions must be submitted at least 75 days in advance of the annual meeting.

Placement of one woman on every SBC committee.

## Graham NYC Crusade his swan song?

NEW YORK (BP) — Was it or wasn't it Billy Graham's final crusade?

For months, the Greater New York Billy Graham Crusade in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park was billed as likely his last, or likely his last in North America, or his final "planned" crusade because of talk of an invitation from London. But, as always, the 86-year-old evangelist wasn't ready or willing to provide a definite answer.

On Sunday, he said he'd been asked if this was his final crusade. "I said, 'It probably is, in New York," he said in his southern drawl, "but I also said, 'I never say never."

Graham, now in fragile health with Parkinson's, prostate cancer, water buildup on the brain, and the effects of a hip replacement and broken pelvis, has always said that evangelists don't retire — but others hinted that this could be it.

Cliff Barrows, who, along with 96-year-old soloist George Beverly Shea, has been an associate of Graham's for 60 years, called this crusade an emotional one for the trio.

"We're all a little overwhelmed," the 82-year-old music director and master of ceremonies said. "It's hard to believe that this phase in our lives is coming to a close."



### Correction

In the page one article of the June 23 issue, an editor's error misidentified Camp Garaywa in Clinton as being owned and operated by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Camp Garaywa is owned and operated by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. The Baptist Record regrets the error.



### FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Living Free 1 Corinthians 8:9-13; 9:19-27

By Rhoda Royce

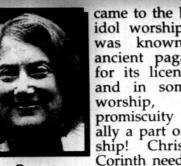
My father's life taught me as much as his words in the pulpit. He was a lifelong witness, during his years as a pastor and afterwards when he worked at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Some Sundays, he left the grand sanctuary of our church, First Baptist Church, Nashville, and walked the downtown streets, witnessing to homeless folks. One Sunday, he took off his coat and tie and made himself look a little like a person, Afterwards, he laughingly told me that he'd been witnessed to by a member of another church who had also made himself look like a homeless person! Dad was acting out a precept Paul explained in our session for this week, becoming "all things to all people" (9:22). In doing so, Dad was practicing one of the principles of victorious Christian living, the subject of our unit's study this month. He was using

his Christian freedom to

Kingdom purpose.

Cautious Living (8:9-13) — In my father's home, we went to great lengths to avoid doing things that might reflect badly on the Lord. We used a spinner when we played board games, rather than dice, and didn't play card games of certain types. My parents explained that there was nothing intrinsically wrong with using dice to play Monopoly or using cards with certain figures on them, but we didn't want to damage our witness with our neighborhood friends.

Something more serious, but similar, is behind Paul's advice in 1 Corinthians 8:9-13. Many Corinthian Christians



Royce

came to the Lord from idol worship. Corinth known in the ancient pagan world for its licentiousness, and in some pagan promiscuity was actually a part of the wor-Christians in Corinth needed advice

about the practice of buying and eating food that had been sacrificed to idols or attending dinners given in private homes and in temples dedicated to idols where such food would be served. (See also 1 Corinthians 10:19-31.)

Paul advised that since an idol is nothing, meat that's been sacrificed to idols isn't special. It's just meat. Yet though Christians are free in Christ, they must not use their freedom others. Weaker hurt Christians might be encouraged by another Christian's participation in these practices to return to pagan practices. Such a misuse of freedom would hurt the weaker Christian and constitute a sin against Christ. Like Christ, who gave up everything

for sinners, Paul was willing to give up eating meat for the rest of his life if it would help keep a brother from falling into sin.

Purposeful Living (9:19-23)

— In U.S. society today, we are very quick to assert the personal rights our freedom affords. Paul began chapter 9 by describing certain rights that he and other Christian apostles held: the right for support and the right to marry. Yet once again, Paul freely chose to give up rights in order to preach the gospel in a way no one could reasonably criticize. Instead, he used his freedom in Christ to become a slave! He became a slave to all persons he wanted to win to Christ, which was everyone. He no longer needed to adhere to Jewish ceremonial law, but he lived like a Jew among Jews. To witness to Gentiles he became like a Gentile, insofar as that was consistent with the law of Christ. When he could approach them through their own thought models, he did so (Acts 17). To the weak or unenlightened, he showed tender consideration.

Paul was no hypocrite. He

changed nothing important about himself. Rather, he was passionately devoted to Christ and changed only the exterior things that didn't matter in order to gain a hearing for the gospel. Every day of his life Paul sought to "by all means save some.

Disciplined Living (9:24-27) The Isthmian Games, an athletic event second in importance only to the Olympics, took place near Corinth every two years. Athletes trained in a stringent regimen that required strict discipline. So Corinthian Christians would have understood Paul's comparison of the way Christians should live with the way the athletes worked toward the reward of their efforts: the perishable, pine-leaf wreath given to winners. Our freedom should be exercised in self-control, not license. Our time and energies must be focused toward the ultimate goal, toward the eternal reward awaiting us at the end of our race.

Rhoda Royce is a member of First Church, Clinton.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Declaring Universal Accountability Ezekiel 25:1-4a, 15, 17; 26:2-3; 28:2, 5

By Don Schuman

Ezekiel had a message for God's people. It had not been a pleasant message, but it was a true message. It was a message of judgment.

Ezekiel also had a message for the enemies of God's people. It was a message of judg-ment for them, too. Those who took delight in seeing Judah taken into captivity would be punished. God had no delight in having to judge His people, and neither should others find delight in their chastisement.

1. Accountable for Seeking God (Ezek. 25:1-4a)

The book of Genesis gives us the account of the Ammonites. That wicked nation consisted of the descendants of Ammon, the son of Lot and one of his daughters.

The animosity of the Ammonites is best revealed in their wicked

glee at the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Instead of seeking the living God, the Ammonites preferred their dead paganism. They hated the Lord God as they hated His people. Ezekiel prophesied that just as surely as Judah's judgment, their judgment was coming.

2. Accountable for Loving People (25:15, 17)

We are accountable for loving people. We should take no delight in God's judgment on someone else. Our hearts' desire should be to see others saved. Paul wrote in Romans 10:1 — "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." These were people who had no use for Paul, who hated and persecuted Paul, some who even wanted Paul dead. Paul was burdened that they be saved. We should also be burdened for the lost that they be saved and avoid judgment.

There is a strong ungodly influence emanating from the entertainment industry, the

news media, and our institutions of "higher" education. Their anti-Christian bias is obvious in their programming, their reporting, and school policies and curriculum. Our desire should be for those in places of influence to be saved, to intimately know Jesus Christ as we know Him, to experience light instead of darkness, to see where now they are blind. If God can save someone like me, He is certainly willing to save them, too. Pray that this land would experience a spiritual awakening for Jesus Christ.

3. Accountable for Values (26:2-3)

Greatness is not found in values and valuables as defined by the world. It is discovered in values and treasures as defined by the Word of God. Jesus taught us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). Our values should be based on the God's Word.

There is an intense effort in our country to federally fund new lines of embryonic stem cells. This effort is not satisfied with stem cell research from umbilical cords, adult stem cells, or the current lines. They are deluded in their thinking that only stem cells from newly destroyed embryos promise cures for others.

We all were once embryos. Bible based values concerning life will continue to be tested so we must continue to stand with "thus saith the Lord God." God judged the surrounded nations who took satisfaction in the destruction of Judah, and He will certainly judge those who take satisfaction in the destruction of human life for financial

or God-defying purposes.
4. Accountable for Humility

"Sincere humility attracts. Lack of humility subtracts. Artificial humility detracts." Pride is the problem in chapter 28. Verses 1 through 10 describe

the proud prince of Tyre. Even though he was a man, he made himself to be like a god. God would judge him for his pride.

Verses 11 through 19 describe the proud power ("king") behind the prince of Tyre. This power is described as a cherub that was created with magnificent beauty. The picture in these verses certainly applies to our adversary today, Satan. In his beauty he became proud and rebellious, and he has been brought low. Isaiah described him similarly in Isaiah 14:12, where he is called, "Lucifer." We know of him also as the serpent, the devil, who will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:10).

God hates pride. "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit" (Proverbs 29:23). Someone came up with the condensed "stay humble or stumble." We are accountable for humility. "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6).

Schuman is pastor of Hamilton Church, Ashland.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

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### FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Waging War Ephesians 6:10-20

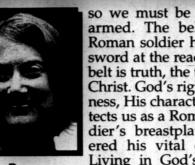
By Rhoda Royce

Several weeks ago in San Antonio, a tour guide talked to our group about her work with wounded young veterans of the war in Iraq. She tries to meet their needs for the "extras" some of them lack: phone cards so they can call home and new socks, underclothes, and shirts. She also attempts, in her public career, to keep Americans conscious that we are in a state of war. Comfortable here in the U.S. and occupied with our own concerns, we too often forget. In this week's session, Paul issued Christians a similar reminder about our spiritual lives. On Earth, we live in a spiritual state of war, and we must stay ready to withstand the attacks of evil. This readiness is a second principle of our unit's victorious theme, Christian living.

Nature of the Battle (Eph. 6:10-12) — How can we stay ready for spiritual attack?
We can keep on letting Christ fill
us with His mighty power. We
have no strength in ourselves to
withstand spiritual battle, but Christ has already proved His might and sealed the ultimate doom of all evil. David couldn't wear Saul's armor (1 Sam. 17), but God offers us His own complete spiritual armor, and we must put it on.

Who are those arrayed against us? They are the deceiver Satan and all the spiritual powers that oppose God.

Equipment for the Battle (Eph. 6:13-17) — We cannot know when attacks will come,



Royce

so we must be always armed. The belt of a Roman soldier held his sword at the ready. Our belt is truth, the truth of Christ. God's righteousness, His character, protects us as a Roman sol-dier's breastplate covered his vital organs. Living in God's righteousness, we have pro-

tection against Satan's accusations and other blows.

Roman soldiers' sandals were studded with nails for stability. Our stability, our readiness, is ensured by the "gospel of peace." The military imagery in the passage should not overpower our understanding that the gospel is not one of dominance for its own sake but of peace: the peace that God offers in Christ to repentant sinners.

In every situation, we must take our "shield of faith." Roman soldiers must have had to learn to carry this large piece of armor in one hand while wielding the sword in the other. Leather shields could be soaked

to quench and catch the deadly, flaming arrows of the enemies. How does faith protect us? Through faith, we know the eventual outcome is preordained and take courage; through faith, we live and act in union with God.

A soldier cannot live without his or her brain and must protect it; a Christian has no spiritual power without his or her salvation. Wearing the helmet God has given us, we can withstand Satan's deceiving temptations. God's Word, the "sword of the Spirit," is the reliable basis for Christian action in this world.

Attitude for the Battle (Eph. 6:18-20) — Because I work with young people, I empathize deeply with those who leave their lives at home to fight our battles. I should worry less and pray more. Paul advises Christians that we are always to stay "alert," always praying with perseverance for ourselves and all our fellow Christian soldiers engaged in battle with our enemy. Paul, a prisoner at the time he wrote Ephesians, solicited earnest prayers that he would be able to witness boldly of the gospel of Christ. In our churches, we pray devotedly for the sick, and so we should. Perhaps we should be more careful to pray for each other as we face temptation, confusion, and all the attacks of evil. We should remember also those who represent Christ and His gospel as spiritual ambassadors, even "in chains."

The imagery of battle isn't appealing to me. War is horrendous, full of suffering. Yet, whether I remember it or not, I am a soldier of Christ. I will be attacked as I attempt to follow His lead, but I must not go AWOL. I must hold my ground. I must wear God's armor as I serve in a great army sent out not to keep or enforce the peace through threat or violence but to offer the peace by doing good, by sharing the message of peace with God available in Christ.

Rhoda Royce is a member of First Church, Clinton.

### EXPLORE THE BIBLE

How to Be Redeemed Ezekiel 33:7-11, 30-33

By Don Schuman

1. Respond to God's Warning (Ezek. 33:7-9)

Ezekiel's responsibility was as serious as being a watchman on the wall. He was commanded to warn the people. His alarm, however, was the message that every person must turn from his wicked way.

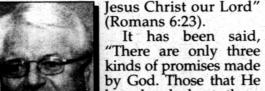
Repentance is the message for the lost today. Jesus warned of the need to repent and believe (Mark 1:15). In his witnessing to Nicodemus (and us), Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3).

That's a powerful warning, but Jesus wasn't through with Nicodemus (or us). He went on to say in John 3:18-19: "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is

condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." These verses clearly warn that rejecting the Son of God (Jesus) is condemnation. No response to the warning is the same as rejecting the Son. The unbeliever is condemned already.

2. Believe God's Promise (33:10-11)

With the terrifying news of eternal condemnation, there is the wonderful promise of eternal life: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through



Schuman

has already kept, those He is keeping right now, and those He will keep in the future." The world would insist that Fundamental Christianity is too exclusive, too narrow

minded, but actually it is most inclusive. Jesus invites all, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). His invitation is to all.

God provided the one way of salvation so that anyone, even a young child, could receive by placing his faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. John 3:16-17 — For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." Everlasting life what a marvelous promise!

After we believe that promise of God by believing in His Son, God promises to keep us. Ephesians 1:13 — "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise." 3. Obey God's Word (33:30-33) In John 14:15, Jesus said, "If

ye love me, keep my com-mandments." Evidence of our love for the Lord is obedience to His word. Why is obedience to God's Word so important? It is important because obedience makes us more like Christ. As we apply the Word of God to our will, our conscience, our likes and dislikes, we conform our thoughts and intents to His image. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). The Word exposes the areas of our heart that harbor sin.

William Ames said it well, "The receiving of the Word consist of two parts: attention of mind and intention of will." Obeying God's Word is hearing and heeding. Proverbs 3:34 "Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates (another picture of Ezekiel's watchman), waiting at the posts of my doors." We hear, but do we heed? It is astonishing that so much masterful discipling is provided for today's members, yet there is so little output in the way of soul winning, mature believers.

Why is that? I believe the focus is on the attention of mind, but not the intention of will. We know it, but we don't show it. Many church members are looking for what will capture their attention, but not for what will change their intention. Obeying the whole Word of God requires changing the whole heart. Let us trust and obey.

Schuman is pastor of Hamilton

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## Tennessee tops in messenger count at SBC

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) - As could be expected, Tennessee Baptists sent the largest number of messengers, 1,955, to the June 21-**Baptist** Southern Convention's annual meeting in Nashville, according to unofficial totals. The unofficial count for all messengers was 11,641. Last year's registration total in Indianapolis was 8,600.

Other leading states, according to unofficial totals, were Georgia with 1,021 messengers, and Kentucky with 989. Alabama was next with 857, then North Carolina with 814, and Florida with 686. Mississippi ranked sixth with

671 messengers.

The number of messengers registering online was 9,225, according to the unofficial totals, with 7,407 of those registrants present in Nashville. A total of 4,976 churches were represented, according to the unofficial totals.

SBC Registration Secretary Jim Wells said official totals for the 2005 convention will be available in mid-July.

Pastors urged to go to 'unwilling places'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) -If a minister of the Gospel truly wants to see a great harvest of souls, there must be no place where he is unwilling to go for God, Pastor Johnny Hunt said June 20 at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Gaylord Entertainment Center in downtown Nashville, just prior to the start of the 2005 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in the same arena.

Although many say they will go wherever God leads, Hunt, who pastors the Atlanta-area First Church in Woodstock, said he wondered if that is really the case.



Hunt

"Why is it that no one ever says, 'Who's going to the unlikely places?" Hunt asked, noting that, instead, many people only talk about filling the most prominent pulpits in the best parts of town. "I'm telling you, God's the God of the unknown places.... Is there anybody here who maybe God is calling to the wrong side of the tracks?

In reality, Hunt said, the right position of one's heart is more important than the "right" location of one's church. A heart committed to following God's guidance and dedicated to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ will result in a life that God will use and bless.

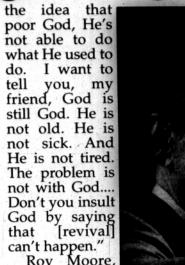
Other notable speakers who addressed the afternoon and evening sessions of the Pastors' Conference included Adrian Rogers, Judge Roy Moore, Roy Fish, Jerry Falwell, and Jerry Tidwell.

Rogers, retired pastor of the Memphis-area Bellevue Church and president of Love Worth Finding Ministries in Cordova, Tn., told pastors that no person that is too small for God to use.

Drawing from the biblical story of Gideon, Rogers, a former SBC president, noted that God called Gideon "not for what he was but for what God could make out of him.'

Similarly, God is still at work today using those whose eyes are humbly set on Him, Rogers said.

"There has never been a greater day to preach the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ than today," Rogers said. "Somehow, we get



Rogers

Roy Moore, former Alabama Supreme Court justice

who was removed from the court for defying a federal judge's order to remove a monument with the Ten Commandments, gave conference-goers a lesson in U.S. history as it related to his ouster from the bench.

"The issue was not about a monument; it was not about religion; and it was not about sneaking [the monument] in, in the middle of the night," Moore said. "It is about the acknowledgement of God."

"When those 56 men met in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, there was no embarrassment about God; there was no confusion; there was no attempt to avoid the issue," Moore said.

Noting that now, more than 200 years later, the nation is suffering under "judicial tyranny," Moore warned that "there are consewhat is happening America today.

Participants at the Pastors' Conference honored Roy Fish, now in his 40th year as professor evangelism at Seminary In Worth, Texas, for his dedication to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his teaching of so

many Southern Baptist pastors. Southwestern President Paige Patterson said Fish embodies "the spirit of evangelism walking across this campus."

Fish, who preached in the Monday afternoon session, encouraged pastors to "preach the unsearchable riches of Christ" rather than "the theories of men" and "psychologi-cal doses of uplift."

"You will never exhaust the riches of Christ in your preaching. You are never going to run out of material preaching Jesus," Fish added. "Lift Him up and see that He draws sinful people to Himself."

Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Church in Lynchburg, Va., reminded the audience the Christian's message must include such elements as the inspiration and infallibility of Scripture, the deity of Christ,

the substitutionary atonement of Christ for all, the bodily resurrection of Christ on the third day and Christ's second coming.

Today's pastors have an unprecedented missions opportunity to take that message to the world's 6.6 billion people, Falwell said, and they should use the tools of modern communications

and transportation to do so.
"The greatest churches since Pentecost are yet to be built," Falwell said. "...We've got to teach the young preachers that



the way to reach the masses today is to use every means to reach every available person at every available time.'

Elected as officers were: president, Bryant Wright, Johnson Ferry Church, Marietta, Ga.; vice president, Doug Munton, First Church, O'Fallon, Ill.; and secretary, Gary Urich, Southern Hills Church, Bolivar, Mo.

## Bowlin preaches at COSBE meeting



Gary Bowlin, Mississippi Baptist vocational evangelist from Summit, preaches during the Sunday morning service June 19 in Nashville's historic Ryman Auditorium, sponsored by the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (COSBE). The service was one of many events in Nashville prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in nearby Gaylord Entertainment Center on June 21-22. (BP photo by Justin Veneman)

